

Message Text

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17

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HUD:MR SMIGEL(SUBS)

SCI/EN:AMB TRUEHEART

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AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SENV

SUBJECT: UNEP: GC II, RECOMMENDATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF
INTERNATIONAL HABITAT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FOUNDATION
(IHHSF) - ECOSOC CONSIDERATION

MANILA FOR US REP UNDP - KITCHEN

1. AT ITS SECOND SESSION, MARCH 12-22 IN NAIROBI, UNEP
GOVERNING COUNCIL, BY CONSENSUS, ADOPTED RESOLUTION 16
RECOMMENDING THAT UNGA ESTABLISH IHHSF TO COME INTO BEING
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JANUARY 1, 1975. PART (B) OF SAME RESOLUTION REQUESTED

THAT ECOSOC URGENTLY REVIEW THIS PROPOSAL AND ADVISE GA CONCERNING WAYS IN WHICH IHHSF MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED BY DRAWING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ON POSTS AND RESOURCES OF SECRETARIAT UNITS. FULL TEXT UNEP RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN REPORT OF GC II, UNEP/GC/26.

2. USDEL EVENTUALLY JOINED IN CONSENSUS BECAUSE COMPROMISE EMBODIED IN PROPOSAL REPRESENTED CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT OVER COMPETING PROPOSAL ORIGINATED BY JAMAICA DEL. MAJOR FACTOR IN US DECISION WAS AGREEMENT BY OTHERS ACCEPT COMPANION RESOLUTION NOTED PARA 1 ABOVE WHICH OFFERED OPPORTUNITY RATIONALIZE UN HANDLING OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MATTERS. ISSUE WILL BE CONSIDERED BY 57TH ECOSOC UNDER ITEM 16, AT WHICH TIME ECOSOC WILL HAVE BEFORE IT, IN ADDITION TO UNEP RECOMMENDATION, UNSYG REPORT REQUESTED BY 56TH ECOSOC, E/L.1589, PROVISIONAL AGENDA ITEM 16(A).

3. IN INITIATING PREPARATION OF US POSITION ON THIS ITEM, FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS APPEAR PERTINENT:

(A) IT IS IN US INTEREST TO TAKE POSITIVE STANCE IN DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIONS REQUIRED AS RESULT UNEP RECOMMENDATION; US EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD AGREEMENT ON ACTIONS DESIGNED ENSURE SUCCESS OF IHHSF. US SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR FROM OUTSET THAT CONTINUATION US COOPERATION DEPENDENT ON WILLINGNESS OTHERS SEEK REASONABLE SOLUTIONS.

(B) IT IS IN US INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE CONSOLIDATION UN ACTIVITIES IN FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. IN VIEW IMPORTANCE GROUP 77 HAVE ATTACHED TO ESTABLISHMENT NEW INSTITUTION (GC II RECOMMENDATION IS CULMINATION LDC PUSH CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED SINCE ADOPTION RECOMMENDATION 2 ET AL AT STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE AND ORIGIN OF CONCEPT GOES BEYOND EVEN (THAT) IT REASONABLE ASSUME THEY CONCEIVE IHHSF AS INSTITUTION TO TAKE OVER LEAD THIS AREA. THERE PROBABLY EXISTS ALREADY, THEREFORE, WIDESPREAD IF LARGELY UNSPOKEN SENTIMENT THAT UN CENTER FOR HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING SHOULD BE FOLDED INTO IHHSF. IN ADDITION ESTABLISHMENT IHHSF, FOR WHICH UNEP GC WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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POLICY-MAKING BODY, WOULD IN EFFECT RENDER ECOSOC COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING ANACHRONISTIC AND CONSIDERATION MIGHT REASONABLY BE GIVEN TO ITS DISSOLUTION.

(C) ASSUMING GA ACTION TO ESTABLISH IHHSF EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1975, CENTER MERGER COULD ALSO BE EFFECTIVE THAT DATE. TO PREVENT UNNECESSARY DAMAGE TO FUNCTION-

ING AND MORALE OF EXISTING CENTER STAFF, WHICH RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING FAIRLY SIGNIFICANT UNDP AND UN REGULAR BUDGET PROGRAM, TRANSFORMATION SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON AS ORDERLY AND HARMONIOUS BASIS AS POSSIBLE. YOU SHOULD ALSO FLOAT IDEA INFORMALLY THAT FOUNDATION PLUS MERGED CENTER SHOULD BE LOCATED IN NEW YORK (SITE OF PRESENT CENTER) IN ORDER TO REDUCE DISLOCATION IMPACT OF MERGER AND HAVE NEW ENTITY CLOSE TO UN FINANCIAL BASE. (FYI: MAURICE STRONG FULLY CONCURS IN THIS) WE WOULD HOPE THAT SOME OTHER DELEGATION AT ECOSOC WOULD PUT THIS IDEA FORWARD, HOWEVER.

4. ECOSOC SUMMER SESSION MIGHT TAKE FOLLOWING ACTION:

(A) ECOSOC TO ENDORSE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF IHHSF AS RECOMMENDED BY UNEP;

(B) ECOSOC TO RECORD ITS VIEW THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF IHHSF WOULD BE USEFUL STEP IN DIRECTION OF IMPROVING UN SERVICES IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AREA AND IN THIS RESPECT REPRESENTS VALUABLE EXTENSION OF EXISTING UN PROGRAMS;

(C) ECOSOC TO RECOMMEND TO GA THAT CENTER HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING, BOTH PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS, BE MERGED INTO IHHSF AS SOON AS PRACTICAL IN 1975 AND WHOLE ENTITY LOCATED IN NEW YORK.

(C) ECOSOC TO REVIEW IN 1975 NEED FOR CONTINUATION ECOSOC'S COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING.

5. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT DESIRABLE EXPLORE INFORMALLY VIEWS OTHER KEY DELEGATIONS SO SUGGEST MISSION AND US DEL UNDP MANILA UNDERTAKE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS.
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DEPARTMENT PARTICULARLY INTERESTED LEARN WHETHER OTHERS ENVISAGE ECOSOC TAKING FINAL DECISION THIS QUESTION AT SUMMER ECOSOC. MISSION SHOULD ALSO DISCUSS OUR GENERAL THINKING THIS ISSUE WITH UNSYG DAVIDSON WHO WILL PRESUMABLY BE SYG'S PRINCIPAL ADVISER ON PREPARATION STUDY CALLED FOR BY 56TH ECOSOC. MISSION SHOULD EMPHASIZE IN CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER DELS AND SECRETARIAT, OUR VIEW THAT EXISTING TOP VACANCIES IN CENTER SHOULD NOT BE FILLED UNTIL THE IHHSF RELATIONSHIP TO THE CENTER IS DECIDED.

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